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Work and Workers

REV. J. CULLEN AYER, Ph.D., professor of canon law in the Episcopal Theological School at Cambridge, Mass., has been elected to the chair of ecclesiastical history in the Philadelphia Divinity School.

REV. H. A. A. KENNEDY, of Callander, Scotland, a graduate of Edinburgh University and New College, has been elected to succeed Principal Caven as professor of New Testament literature in Knox College, Toronto.

DURING the past year more than a million copies of the Scriptures were sold in China by the British and Foreign Bible Society. This record far exceeds all previous reports of the society's circulation in the Chinese Empire.

REV. EDWARD A. WICHER, B.D., minister of St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, St. John, N. B., and formerly tutor in Greek in Knox College, Toronto, has been elected professor of Old Testament exegesis in the San Francisco Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church.

REV. J. AGAR BEET, D.D., professor of theology in Richmond College, England, has retired from his chair. He has been led to take this step by the fact that his views as expressed in his book, "The Last Things," were widely disapproved by the members of the Wesleyan Communion, which Richmond College represents.

THE Mikado has recently given \$5,000 toward the work of the Young Men's Christian Association among the Japanese soldiers in Manchuria. The *Jiji Shimpō*, probably the most influential journal in Japan, in commenting upon the gift, declares that, although the Christian religion is of recent introduction, it has effected great improvement in the moral condition of the nation.

REV. LOUIS B. CRANE, who for three years has been professor of New Testament interpretation at the Chicago Theological Seminary, resigned his chair at the close of the school year last May. The New Testament courses at the Seminary during the first part of the coming year will be given by Professor Clyde W. Votaw, of the University of Chicago.

IN the South Congregational Church, Springfield, Mass., there is held, under the leadership of the pastor, Rev. P. S. Moxom, D. D., a biblical

seminar, participated in by a considerable number of the adult members of the church and congregation. A subject being selected for each year's work, papers are prepared, by members of the class, both lay and clerical. This is one of the ways, and one of the best ways, in which pastors may promote the study of the Bible upon the part of the more intelligent members of their congregation, and may guide them to more intelligent opinions concerning the Bible, and more fruitful use of it. We have reason to know that some at least of the papers prepared in this seminar have been of an unusual order of merit.

ON May 26 the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the established church, asked Parliament to permit an alteration in the formula of the subscription to the Confession of Faith required of ministers. According to the Act of 1693, the minister has been obliged to declare that this printed confession is "the confession of his faith," and that he owns the doctrine herein contained to be the true doctrine which he will constantly adhere to, and that he should make a declaration of his faith in "the sum and substance" of the doctrine of the reformed churches contained in the Confession of Faith. If Parliament authorizes the desired change, ministers will hereafter make a declaration of faith "according to such formula as may from time to time be prescribed by the General Assembly." This will accord Scottish Presbyterians liberty for the development of doctrine and evolution of faith.

THE American Committee for Lectures on the History of Religions, of which Professor Toy, of Harvard, is chairman, Professor Jastrow, of the University of Pennsylvania, secretary, and Dr. Peters, of New York, treasurer, announces a change of plan by which for the next five years the lecturers will be Americans. Heretofore, with one exception, the professors lecturing at the different universities were foreigners. In the year 1905-6 Professor Knox, of Union Theological Seminary, is to lecture on "The Religions of Japan;" in 1906-7 Professor Bloomfield, of Johns Hopkins University, on some phase of religious movement in India; in 1907-8 Professor Moore, of Harvard, on "The Principles of the Comparative Study of Religions;" in 1908-9 Professor Jastrow, of the University of Pennsylvania, on "Religions of Babylonia;" in 1909-10 Professor Jackson, of Columbia University, on "The Religion of Persia." This American committee has already given great stimulus to the study of comparative religion in seminaries and universities.